

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. One important question regarding the new Soviet regime is whether or not the armed forces will obey Malenkov as they obeyed Stalin. At the 19th Party Congress of the CPSU in October 1952, Marshal Vasilevskiy stated that 86.4 percent of all generals and officers were either Party members or members of the Komsomol, that the armed forces received continuous Communist training and could, therefore, be fully trusted by the Party. There are indications, however, that the army is a unit independent of the Party, which has no desire to oppose the Party but which nevertheless is a power factor which is difficult to split /sic; which will act as a unit regardless of Party affiliations?/.
2. The move to have legendary Marshal K. Ye. Voroshilov elected President of the Supreme Soviet was obviously a maneuver to preserve the loyalty of the armed forces to Malenkov and to the Party. Since Malenkov, Molotov, and Beriya never have been soldiers, Voroshilov will thus be made to play the role of a Soviet Hindenburg, which makes it possible for the new rulers actually to assure themselves of the decisive power factor, namely, the armed forces.
3. In order to prevent Voroshilov from doing anything which might deviate from the Party line, he will be assisted by N.M. Pegov, who has not yet figured prominently but who is a definitely reliable young Party functionary and will have as his deputy A.F. Gorkin, former secretary of the Supreme Soviet.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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